

Have a Safe Summer!

Summer safety tips brought to you by Fairfax County Government



Teach children at an early age that fireworks are explosive devices, not toys. Left to professionals, fireworks can be a spectacular addition to holidays and celebrations, but in the hands of amateurs, fireworks can turn the festivities into tragedy.



It's picnic season! To be safe, raw meat and poultry need to stay in a cooler with ice until thoroughly cooked. Keep all perishable foods, especially those made with raw eggs or mayonnaise, in the cooler as much as possible.



When grilling, remember that in Fairfax County, the only cooking devices permitted on apartment or condominium balconies are ones using either electric or natural gas as a fuel source and listed by a recognized testing authority. When barbecuing, keep the grill in a level position at all times. Douse the coals thoroughly with water after grilling, and never leave children or pets unattended near a hot grill.



Never leave children or pets unattended in a hot car. It can be fatal. Even with the windows slightly open, the temperature in a car on an 85-degree day can reach 102 degrees in ten minutes. In 30 minutes, the temperature can reach 120 degrees.



Kids can't fly! A summer breeze feels nice but remember to keep children away from open windows, even if they have screens. Every year hospitals treat many children who fall from windows, most of whom are under the age of 4.



Swimming is a great way to beat the heat. Never leave children alone or out of eye contact while they are in or near the water. Remove toys from the area when you're not using them. Toys can attract young children to the pool. All residential pools should be completely enclosed by a fence that stands at least 4 feet high.



Water also attracts mosquitoes. The most effective way to control mosquitoes is to tip and toss the standing water where mosquitoes lay their eggs. To avoid being bitten, wear light-colored clothing and use insect repellant indicated for mosquitoes.



The long summer days bring out other critters in addition to mosquitoes. Enjoy our natural wildlife, from a distance. Wild animals can carry rabies, a virus that attacks the nervous system and kills almost any mammal, including humans, that gets sick from it. Get your pets vaccinated every year. It's the law.



To curb the spread of many viruses, including summer colds, wash your hands often, with soap. When preparing food, wash your hands before you begin, and again after using the restroom, blowing your nose, coughing or using the telephone.



When school's not in session, it is sometimes necessary to leave children unattended for short periods of time, although children 7 or younger should never be left unattended. Fairfax County's Child Protective Services offers guidelines on child supervision. See the box below for more information.

Where to Go for More Summer Safety Tips

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue
Public Information and Life Safety Education
703-246-3801, TTY 703-385-4419
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire

Fairfax County Health Department
703-246-2411, TTY 703-591-6435
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/service/hd

Fairfax County Police Animal Control Division
703-830-3310 (voice/TTY)
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/ac/CONTACT.HTM

Fairfax County Child Protective Services
703-324-7400, TTY 703-222-9452
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/service/dfs/ChildrenYouth/homealone.shtm

For 24-hour recorded information on a variety of topics, call 703-324-INFO (4636), TTY 711.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov

For more information or to request this information in alternative formats, contact the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs at 703-324-3187, TTY 703-324-2935.
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